

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Emergency Operations Plan



Mass Evacuation

Volume II

Support Annex 7

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

November 2009

Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan Mass Evacuation Support Annex 7 Volume II

Purpose

The purpose of the Mass Evacuation Section is to establish the organizational basis for operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia to effectively respond to and recover from disasters and/or emergency situations which involve mass evacuation.

Concept of Operations

This section describes the coordinating processes and assigns the broad responsibilities used to ensure the smooth evacuation of any region in the Commonwealth due to any hazard including a catastrophic incident. Additionally, this Section outlines evacuation processes for events occurring without warning, and the transportation components necessary to address the operations of assembly areas that might be established during a declared state of emergency.

The following events could require state assistance for evacuation from any given locality. Such events may include but are not limited to:

- Radiological Event
- Hazardous Materials Event
- Hurricane Event
- Flooding Event
- Terrorism Event

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Coordination of evacuation operations will be accomplished by the Virginia Evacuation Coordination Team for Operational Response (VECTOR) within the Operations Section of the VERT. VECTOR represents several key agencies including VDOT, VSP, Virginia National Guard, DSS, VDEM VDACS, ARC and ESF 15, External Affairs. Overall agencies with operational responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Virginia Department of Transportation – Assist with traffic control in the event of an emergency requiring evacuation, in accordance with the Highway Laws of Virginia and the policies of the State Highway Commission; to assist with the media outreach efforts of evacuation education pre-event and notification during an event regarding routing to be used; to assist in moving motorists to refuges of last resort as an event with warning approaches; to activate the Hurricane Lane Reversal Plan if needed; to respond to the activation of the NOVA Evacuation Plan; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - b. Virginia State Police – Coordinate traffic control in the event of an emergency requiring evacuation in accordance with the Highway Laws of Virginia and the policies of the State Highway Commission, including the coordination of resources and information with local law enforcement officials; to assist in directing motorists to refuges of last resort as an event with warning approaches; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - c. Virginia National Guard – Assist with traffic control in the event of an emergency requiring evacuation, in accordance with the Highway Laws of Virginia and the

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Mass Evacuation Support Annex 7 Volume II**

policies of the State Highway Commission; to assist in directing motorists to refuges of last resort as an event with warning approaches; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.

- d. Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles – Assist with the movement of stranded motorists along established evacuation routes to approved refuges; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - e. Virginia Port Authority – Recommend policies, procedures and projects necessary for the implementation of evacuation plans for the Commonwealth via Commonwealth waterways; to provide evacuation subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed
 - f. Virginia Department of Aviation – Recommend policies, procedures and projects necessary for the implementation of evacuation plans for the Commonwealth via air; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - g. Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation – Recommend policies, procedures and projects necessary for the implementation of evacuation plans for the Commonwealth via mass transit and/or rail; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - h. Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Authority – Recommend policies, procedures and projects necessary for the implementation of evacuation plans for the Commonwealth using the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel facilities; to provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed.
 - i. Virginia Department of Health – Provide guidance and technical assistance to local jurisdictions, medical facilities and home health care agencies, such as long term care facilities and home health care agencies, for planning and carrying out emergency evacuation and relocation of medically-dependent persons.
 - j. Virginia Department of Social Services – Provide subject matter expertise to state agencies, as needed; to provide shelter occupancy data to facilitate the movement of traffic along the evacuation routes; to use 2-1-1 and/or Virginia Public Information Center (VPIC) to assist with outreach efforts to citizens on evacuation education pre-event and notification during an event regarding routing to be used; to monitor, coordinate and manage shelter activation and sequencing.
 - k. Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Recommend policies, procedures and projects necessary for the implementation of evacuation plans for the Commonwealth; to facilitate training across state agencies and local government agencies regarding evacuation plans; to provide subject matter expertise to agencies and localities, as needed; to publish approved policy guidance including performance measures; to coordinate evacuation efforts with external agencies to include federal, local and other states; to use 2-1-1 and/or Virginia Public Information Center (VPIC) to assist with outreach efforts to citizens on evacuation education pre-event and notification during an event regarding routing to be used.
2. Specific emergency support functions (ESF) to assist in a successful evacuation scenario include:

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Mass Evacuation Support Annex 7 Volume II**

- ESF #1 (Transportation)
- ESF #2 (Communications)
- ESF #6 (Mass Care, Housing, & Human Services)
- ESF #7 (Resource Support)
- ESF #8 (Public Health & Medical Services)
- ESF #12 (Energy)
- ESF #13 (Public Safety & Security)
- ESF #15 (External Affairs)

Administration, Finance, and Logistics

1. There are numerous support requirements to ensure the successful completion of an evacuation operation. These include mutual aid agreements, authorities for and policy on augmenting staff by reassigning state employees with no VERT role and soliciting volunteers.
2. There are numerous state agencies that can assist in the various tasks such as traffic control, assisting in transportation of stranded motorists and movement of mass transit providers to and from a departure point to assist evacuees to state shelter sites. These agencies may not be assigned specific VERT roles and could provide assistance in many aspects of the evacuation process.
3. The COVEOP provides a basis for the management and provision of critical resources and supplies in support of disaster response and recovery operations. Energy-related resource shortages, such as electric power and gasoline, are addressed in ESF #12.
4. Tracking finances and resources used during an event is addressed in Support Annex 4 of the COVEOP.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Mass Evacuation Support Annex 7 Volume II**

References

- A. Virginia Hurricane Response Plan, Volume V, COVEOP
- B. The Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (Public Law 920, 81st U. S. Congress) as amended by Public Law 96-342 (September 1980).
- C. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.
- D. The National Response Framework
- E. Mass Sheltering, Support Annex 6, COVEOP
- F. VDOT Hurricane Lane Reversal Plan
- G. NOVA Evacuation Plan, Support Annex 5, COVEOP

#